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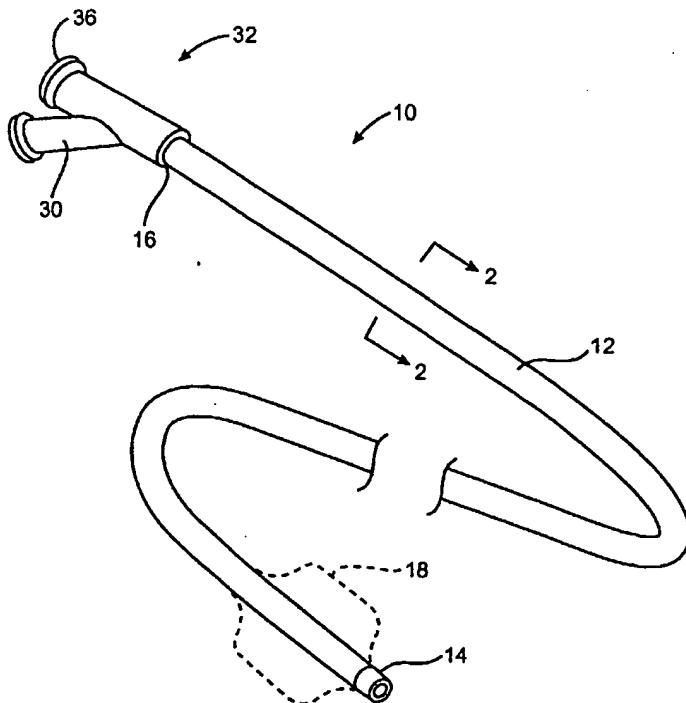
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR OBSTRUCTING AND ASPIRATING LUNG TISSUE SEGMENTS



(57) Abstract: Methods and devices for obstructing and aspirating lung tissue segments minimally invasive with instruments being introduced through the mouth and rely on isolating the target lung tissue segments from other regions of the lung. Isolation is achieved by deploying an obstructive device (150) in a lung passageway (152) leading to the target lung tissue segment. Once the obstructive device is anchored in place, the segment can be aspirated through the device. This may be achieved by a number of methods, including coupling an aspiration catheter (10) to an inlet port on the obstruction device and aspirating through the port. Or, providing the port with a valve which allows outflow of gas from the isolated lung tissue segment during expiration of the respiratory cycle but prevents inflow of air during inspiration. The obstructive device may remain as an implant, to maintain isolation and optionally allow subsequent aspiration, or the device may be removed at any time.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

 IPC(7) : A61M 5/20
 US CL : 604/516

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 U.S. : 604/516; 600/37; 606/108, 232

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

 Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 EAST

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	US 6,293,951 B1 (ALFERNESS et al) 25 September 2001 (25.09.2001), Claims 1-23	1-12
X,P	US 6,287,290 B1 (PERKINS et al) 11 September 2001 (11.09.2001), Claims 25-34	13-14

<input type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	See patent family annex.
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